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longed significant of the legiment weeks establish each code to be well of the appearance Cis a pasent, the new rature Dear Sus, 320/97 Re. Dodest#97-55, Pecg 7-34 determine the guitability wheth wery me people. 1910gs. at the goal stalley me to aspenson a

March 27, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and Fcc Commissioners
Yo Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N. W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 2055+

Re: CS Docket No. 97-55, Fcc 97-34

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the de Portola PTA to voice my opinion in opposition to the V-chip rating system, as presented by fack Valenti on fanuary 17, 1997. The rating system presented does not provide sufficient content information I feel that, as a parent, I would be able to make a more educated Choice in what programs my children see if there was adequate content descriptions. The rating system proposed doesn't provide that, nor do the TV guide descriptions give adequate information.

No. of Copies rocks adequate information.

No. of Copies rocks

I ask that the F.C.C. not approve the industry rating system. Instead, I request the following:

1) Under no circumstances should the F.C. C. accept the proposed system, or any rating system that does not include information such as V (violence), 5 (sexual depiction and medity) and I (language); 2) The F. C. C. should require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating System; 3) The rating board should be in dependent of the industry and the F.C.C. and it should in clude parents; and 4) any nating system approved by the F.C.C. should be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of the paients. Shank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue 50 important to children and families. Sincerely, Felicia Holemo Mission Viejo, Ca

from the Pastor's desk

PASTOR GENE WILSON
ST. Peter's Evangelical
1736 11097 Community Church

Office of the Secretary 19224 E. 950th St.

F.C.C. PECFIVED Fenesses, IL 61254
1919 M Street NW March 27, 1997
Washington, OC 20554

C.S Docket No. 97-55-Comment on Industry Proposal for Rating Video Programming

I believe the V-chip rating system as it now exists is poorly structured. The ratings should be content oriented, not age group oriented.

Furthermore, it is inconsistent in allowing each network's producers to rate their own programs.

Please, remember to enforce the broadcast indecency law against The stations.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Schrerely,

Rev. Evgenc & Wilson

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners.

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Indiana PTA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system. The rating system does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. The FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual content), L (for bad language).

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to families and children.

Sincerely,

on Anderson

No. of Copies rec'd_ List ABCDE

China & Kothy Golder 3520 Oak Know Ok Inguirted the 30008 march 27, 1990 TOKET Chairman Presd Hundt & FCC Communica Office of the Secretary 1919 M Street, N.W. Room 200 Washington, D. a. 30554. Dear Chairmon Hundt and Commission: We are writing to express our despleasure with the proposed industry age-based todeversor proteing system and wage you to adopt a potency system bossed on content instead This should include separate pottings for sex, violence and language Please Consider our paquest pagarding cs Wocket No. 97-55, FCC 9734 Chank you pies rec'd_O_ Kothy and Chris Golden

may 26, 1997

office of the Secretary 1220 11997 1919 m St n.w RECEIVED Wacheriffen S.C. 20554 Re: "C5 DOCKET NO. 97-55-Comment on Industry Praposal for rating Video Programming. I approut the meaningless system that the T. V. business is Trying to pass of is a help for parents. It is of no help. also the V Chip Rating System Must not become a new exerce for the FCC to not enforce The frontest indecency law against T.V. Stations Thank you, I mirely Spergen No. of Copies rec'd C List ABCDE

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Shivela Middle School PTA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating systme has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1966. I do not believe this system does so and ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

- *That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language);
- *That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;
- *That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently place on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;
- *That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and
- *That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Member, Shivela PTA Board, Murrieta, California

No. of Copies rec'd_ List ABCDE Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communication Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

We are writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Simmons Middle School PTA from Hoover, Alabama to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. feel the rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information for parents to make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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* That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Eva H. Click

Corresponding Secretary

Simmons PTA

Hoover, Alabama

March 10, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commaissioners

c/o Federal Communications Commission

:919 M Street N.W., Room 222

Washington, DC 20554

DONE SE OVER COUCHNE

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the West Virginia PTA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children.

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- * That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Mary Lellian Nuzumi 357 Pumphin Hallow Road Heargetown, Pa, 150 43

March 10, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c, o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

JOKET FILE CORY ORIGINAL

RF: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commiss.oners:

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- * That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely

Joyce A. Nuzum 357 Pampkin Hollow Rd. Georgetown, Pa. 15043

LOCKET FILE COPY CRISING March 21, 1997 Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners 40 Federal Communications Commission 1919 M. Street N. W., Room 222 Washington, D.C. 20554 Re: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34 Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners: I am writing on behalf of the national PTA and the de Portola PTA to voice my opinion in opposition to the V-chip rating syste as presented by fack Valente on famiary 17, 1997. The rating system presented dock not provide sufficient content information I feel that, as a parent I would be able to make a more educated che in what programs my children see there was adequate conten descriptions. The rating sentern proposed doesn't provide that me do the TV. quide desenvolver and industry rating system request the following

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Dale and Diane Fisher 11995 South Redwood Road Riverton, Utah 84065

METAL ONLY CHANGE

March 27, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

We are writing on behalf of the National PTA and the local PTA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the national PTA, U. S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meet s the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Och & Dan Fran

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-month-old Allison. There's a really difference having a child after 40. ere's a sense of isolation."

Warwick grew up in the "Father lows Best" generation and always excted to become a wife and mother. She d it all planned — a child at 24, another ew years later. Life, however, had othplans. It wasn't until her second marge that the idea of motherhood arose. timately, Warwick and her husband cided to adopt.

Despite her hopes, motherhood wasn't sy. Cameron had colic and a condition lled reflux that caused her to throw up equently. The spirited fair-haired, ie-eyed infant didn't like to take naps go to bed at night. It was exhausting.

An Eye-Opener: Like Warwick. ephanie Rasines, 47, of Brentwood in't believe motherhood would be unting. She was a professional. How rd could it be to care for one little tyke? These days, Rasines says mothering 2-year-old Jacob is more demanding an her previous career practicing law. "This is the most difficult, challenging b I've ever had," she said. "Before, I d a secretary. Boy, do I miss that secrery."

Unfortunately, Rasines can't look to er aging parents for help, another issue at binds this group of women. Rasines ot only is chasing her child, she's caring r her ill parents.

Yet these women have no trouble tickg off the blessings of waiting.

They feel confident about themselves id know how they want to raise their illdren. And because they've waited a ng time to become mothers, they may ke the responsibility a little more seriisly than younger women.

"We're in better possession of ourlves now. We're more relaxed with who e are." Rasines said.

"I don't resent all the things I had to ve up" for motherhood, said D.C. Walin, 43, of Santa Monica, Calif., mother to 1-month-old Matt. Referring to the vaitions and liesurely weekends, she said. I figure I've been there, done that."

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	A-2 B-4 D-2 C-6	A-2 Obituaries B-4 Puzzles D-2 Sports C-6 Star Gazer

VEATHER: Cooler.

Details: D-1



lion more "because of these schemes 10 per crunch involving the \$1.6 billion reconst require minority bidding" might not stand up in court, he said.

But board member Rich Kuchinsky blamed Gibbons & Reed officials for los-

See LIGHT RAIL, Page A-6

struction, the \$20 million in greenery and other aesthetics planned for the freeway probably will be pitched to keep the project within the budget.

In short, pavement before pines. Even so, Wasatch Constructors includ-

proposal, utive dire "There

Cops Fin 39 Bodies In House

RANCHO SANTA FE. - The bodies of at leas young men in matching pants and tennis shoes found Wednesday after a parent mass suicide in a mi

COMBINED NEWS SERVICE

dollar mansion occupied quasi-religious group of puter programmers.

The men, all about 18 years old, were lying on backs on cots, mattresses beds with their hands at sides, said San Diego C sheriff's Cmdr. Alan Fulm

The cause of death was n mediately known, and were no suicide notes fou any indication of a m Fulmer said.

The cult the men belong called W.W. Higher Sc practiced celibacy and abst from smoking and drinkin cording to Milt Silverman. attorney for the owner (home where the men died. were apparently celebrat "holy week" when they die verman said.

Real-estate agent Scott ren showed the house last and was greeted by abo people, both men and w who referred to the com filled mansion as "our ter said his employer, Bob Dy

"Everybody was met a door. Shoes had to be take and [visitors] were invit wear surgical booties or s said Dyson.

Several rooms contained puters where members Warren they were deve World Wide Web pages.

"They kept referring temple as very self-suf

డ్రీee SUICIDE? Pa{

What Happens in TV Violence Highlights of a new study on the kinds of violence in TV programs and the types of characters involved: Characters **Programs** Aggressors **Victims** Network shows with: Type 71% 70% 54% # Human Violence 14% 15% 5% Human-like animal Anti-violence theme Human-like supernatural 7% 7% Scenes with 79% unpunished violence 2% Animal Violent incident 3% 61% Supernatural creature with no pain Nature Incident with 61% **Good** 45% 32% repeated violence 28% 35% Bad Bad 12% 10% Good and bad 10% 17% Neutral Attractive 41% Kongro-Ridder Televine

Study Slams TV's Ratings Code **And Its High Violence Content**

BY SHERYL STOLBERG

LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — Scholars from four universities delivered a double blow Wednesday to the besieged television industry, releasing a study that found serious flaws in the new ratings code and pervasive levels of TV violence despite the public outcry against it.

In their second annual National Television Violence Study, researchers found that 61 percent of shows in the 1995-96 TV season contained violent scenes, compared with 58 percent during the preceding season.

Researchers also concluded that the TV ratings system is likely to have a "forbidden fruit" effect, enticing children to watch the same violent programs their parents are trying to shield them from. They urged the industry to dump the 3month-old code - which evaluates programs based on the age of potential viewers - in favor of one that labels shows according to content.

The \$3.3 million study, fi-

■ Utah's TV news race

nanced by the National Cable Television Association, is important because it employed scientific methods and was conducted by independent researchers from well-known institutions: the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of North Carolina, the University of Texas and the University of

Wisconsin. TV industry critics hailed the work as too significant to ignore.

"If this doesn't put the death knell in Jack Valenti's plans, nothing will," said Jeff Chester, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Media Educa-

As head of the Motion Picture Association of America, Valenti devised the 28-year-old movie ratings system, on which the TV ratings are patterned.

On Wednesday, he issued a terse statement that said in part: "After 28 years, 79 percent of parents find the movie ratings eystem very useful to fairly useaul. Next survey, please.'

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners: RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing to you to voice my opinions and concerns about the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997.

The rating symbol on the TV screen <u>does not</u> provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Parents, (based on major surveys released this fall) want a rating system that gives parents information about the content of the programs, ie., V (for Violence), S (for Sexual depiction and nudity), L (for Language), etc.

Our government and its branches work for the people, and not visa versa. Our tax dollars go to the government to protect the people and this nation--to make it a better place for all to live. Anything that tends to undermine our personal freedoms and degrade the quality of life of this nation should be strongly guarded against.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I do not believe this system does so, and I would ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, I would ask you to please consider the following:

- 1) That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system.
- 2) That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program.
- 3) That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents.

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-Page Two-

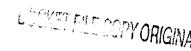
4) A much more specific rating system as mentioned above.

Thank you for hearing me out on an issue so important to children and families.

Singerely

David C. Craig Orem, Utah

March 26, 1997



Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

Re: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

We are writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Linda Vista Elementary School PTA to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Freeman Mary L. Freeman

Mary L. Freeman

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Your letter must be received by April 8, 1997

March 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

AND THE CONCREME

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

West Side PTA
I am (we are) writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Elkhart, IN (local, KENNER, MAINSTER, STAN) to voice my (our) opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U. S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Sandra M. Beers 53958 Pine Tree Place Elkhait, In 46514

Chairman Reed Hunt and FCC Commissioners Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE CORY CRIGINAL

RE: CS Docket # 97-55, FCC 97-34

Chairman Hunt and Commissioners:

I am writing to you as a father, an elementary school teacher, and as the Chair of the Minnesota State PTA Health and Welfare Commission to express my **opposition to the current television rating system**. As a parent I need content information that is meaningful, and this system does not provide what I need. As a member of a State PTA Board I respectfully remind you that in several major national surveys since last fall parents have overwhelmingly supported descriptive, easy-to-understand, content-based rating systems. These are used now in some cable programs and are helpful.

Please DO NOT SUPPORT THE CURRENT SYSTEM designed by Mr. Valenti, et al. At the very least continue to experiment with competitive models of rating systems and have another comment period. Goodness knows we took decades to get to where we are now, you do not need to rush to a final decision. Include parents on any design team, and to be optimally objective insist that the rating board be fully independent of the television industry and the FCC.

To endorse a system that does not provide meaningful information is less helpful than to have no system in place. I believe that because a poor system lulls parents into complacency about this important concern. You can authorize a better, clearer, smarter system. Please do so for our children.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Schlemmer

521 Seventh Avenue South Saint Cloud, MN 56301-4327

Mark W. Schlemmer

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List ABCDE

2443 Turnberry Drive Cincinnati, OH 45244 March 27, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners c/o Federal Communication Commission 1919 M Street N.W., Room 222 Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Wilson Elementary PTA to voice my opinion on the current television ratings system. It is my understanding that the current system is up for approval. I strongly oppose the current system because it does not give me enough information in deciding what programs are acceptable for viewing in our home. I encourage you to only endorse a system that provides content information about the program (sex, violence, language, mature themes).

As a federal commission, you are entrusted by the public to oversee television communications. I have read about many market studies that have been done that overwhelmingly indicate that parents want a content-based rating system. It is your responsibility to ensure this for the public. Please do not let us down!

When a rating system is approved, I would also propose that it be mandated that the ratings be published in program guides. In addition to seeing the rating at the beginning of the show, possibly allow the viewer to also see the rating when they choose (by pressing a special key, similar to when you recall the current channel number on tvs).

As a responsible parent, I work diligently to screen television, videos, computer games, etc., but the job seems overwhelming at times. Please ensure for all parents that the violent content, sexual content, bad language and mature themes of a show can be known before viewing by only approving a content-based rating system.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christie Brown

cc: Joan Dykstra, National PTA

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